



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS
Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Statehouse, Room 229
Indianapolis, IN 46205

NEWS
www.doe.state.in.us

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Department of Education Seeks Sponsors of Summer Food Program for Indiana Children

Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed today encouraged local schools and community organizations to sponsor food service programs for children from low-income families this summer.

“Healthy students make better learners, so it is important we ensure access to nutritious meals throughout the year,” Dr. Reed said. “Our single biggest challenge in reaching more children is simply a lack of sponsors and feeding sites, and local communities can assist in this effort by joining in this effort.”

The federal Summer Food Service Program for Children (SFSPC) reimburses local sponsors that serve healthy meals and snacks to children 18 years and younger in low-income areas during the summer months. Sponsorship is open to public and private nonprofit groups, including local government entities, religious organizations, summer camps, recreation centers, and others. In addition to providing food service, many sponsors offer educational, enrichment, or physical activities or partner with others to do so.

During 2006, 132 Indiana organizations participated in the Summer Food Service Program, serving over 2 million meals across the state.

The application deadline for potential sponsors this year is April 27, 2007. All sponsors receive training to learn how to plan, operate, and monitor a successful program. In an effort to reduce the paperwork burden and administrative requirements associated with the sponsorship process, a streamlined version of the program called the Simplified Summer Food Program is now available to all sponsors.

For more information on becoming a SFSPC sponsor, call (800) 537-1142 or visit the Department of Education Web site at www.doe.state.in.us/food/summer.

More about the Summer Food Service Program for Children

First created in 1968, the Summer Food Service Program for Children served nearly 2 million children at more than 30,000 sites across the nation in the summer of 2006. Administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the federal level, the Indiana Department of Education’s Division of School and Community Nutrition Programs approves

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local sponsors to operate the state's summer food programs. An informational video on the program, produced by the USDA, is available online at www.doe.state.in.us/media/video/SummerMeals.html.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in an USDA-related activity should write or call immediately to:

USDA
Director, Office of Civil Rights
Room 326-W
14th & Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-9410
(202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD)

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